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STAMPED ON A SHOE
MEANS STANDARD OF MERIT.
6th Ave. at 20th St.

Final
Reductions
Men's & Women's
Low Shoes

All Season Now
\$11, \$10, \$8.50, \$7.50, \$6.50, \$5.00
\$2.95

All Season Now
\$5.50, \$5, \$4.50, \$4.00 & \$3.50
\$1.95

U. S. EXPERTS SAY KIND WORD FOR MIDDLEMAN

Agents Made Necessary
by Increased Production
and Distribution.

PERISHABLE GOODS
REQUIRE RETAILERS

Vast Business Done at Market
Centres Demands Them, De-
clare Agricultural Men.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, Aug. 15.—Just as he was staggering under the heavy blows of the Postoffice Department's "farmer to consumer" parcel post campaign, strong reinforcements have come to the aid of the abused middleman. The first kind word in many a year is spoken for him in a bulletin made public to-night by the Department of Agriculture.

The bulletin does not indict the middleman as a class, although it points out some of the abuses in the trade. As a matter of fact, say the department's specialists, economic laws would not permit the long-continued existence of a marketing agency which was solely a parasite.

"Several important factors have contributed to the establishment of many middlemen as necessary agents in the present system of marketing," the bulletin states. "Production during the last decade has increased greatly, and improved methods and facilities for handling the increase have been introduced. Keeping pace with increased production has come the demand of consumers for more elaborate and efficient service. Scarcely is the fact considered that service can become a very expensive luxury. With the widening of the distance between the city and the sources of its food and vegetable supplies, there has arisen the necessity for special agencies to meet the changed conditions."

"Retail dealers are often accused of not following closely the wholesale market quotations; that in times of glutted markets they do not cut prices severely and aid in a rapid movement from producer to consumer. But the responsibility for slow and uneconomic movement into consumptive channels is difficult to trace. The large class of food distributors, known as 'middlemen,' are often accused of levying, arbitrarily, a heavy tribute on all food-stuffs passing from the producer to the consumer. The attention of the public has been frequently directed to increased costs of products rather than to the present distributive machinery."

"The present distributive machinery, with all its strong points and its weaknesses, has been created of necessity, and it has weathered the storm of much adverse criticism. Every part of the country is now enjoying the perishable products of the most remote districts. Any readjustment of present market practices must be based on the fact that some agency must continue to perform the functions of the present-day middleman."

"The problems involved in handling goods through a large market differ greatly from those of production. Usually one man or one firm cannot handle both production and distribution and succeed at both. The vast volume of business transacted at large market centres makes necessary some special agencies which can devote all their energies to distribution. Especially does the machinery for efficient marketing become necessary when perishable goods are to be handled. Commodities of this sort must be moved rapidly, must be distributed evenly, and from their very nature are subject to no weakness in distributive machinery, if they are to be sold at a profit."

"With the perishable nature of a large part of the fruits and vegetables marketed, there must be some loss. This often totals higher than the farmer realizes. For instance, according to the department's market specialists, the loss on such commodities as strawberries, peaches and grapes sometimes amounts to 30 or 40 per cent before they reach the hands of the consumer."

10,000 Farmers to Meet.
Verona, N. J., Aug. 15.—Ten thousand farmers and members of their families are expected to congregate at Verona Lake Park next Thursday, when the thirty-fifth annual outing of the Patrons of Husbandry of Essex, Morris and Union counties is held. The speaker for this year will be United States Senator James E. Martin, of Plainfield. State Senator Joseph Frelinghuysen is also expected to talk to the farmers.

Montclair to Hatch 'Bird Day.'
Montclair, N. J., Aug. 15.—With the production of "Sanctuary" here in October steps will be taken for the establishment of a national "Bird Day." The play will be given in the auditorium of the new Montclair High School, and a "Court of Birds" will be held in one of the gymnasiums. The "Court of Birds" will contain an exhibit of birds, alive and mounted, as well as bird houses and bird baths. There will be prizes for the best compositions on birds by school children of Montclair, Verona, Glen Ridge and Caldwell.

"Several of my colleagues are astonished by Germany's patience," said the Assistant Secretary, who added that "it really was amusing to listen to lawyers' speeches in these court proceedings about a forgery."

"In the same report the Minister adds:

"When the Panther appeared off Agadir, Morocco, it was evident that England wanted to complicate the situation and to force a violent solution of the crisis. The Belgian Minister at Paris, on July 8, 1911, writes: 'There will be less chance for an understanding with Germany if England participates in the conversation.'"

"The occupation of Fez, for instance, would present an aspect of being too permanent or an encroachment upon the spirit, if not upon the letter, of engagements taken in Algiers, and could furnish an occasion for the intervention of Berlin."

"Things soon advanced into a grotesque situation, the Belgian Minister at Berlin, on June 17, 1911, writing: 'As Mr. Zimmermann, the Assistant Secretary of the German Foreign Office, told me yesterday, on the other hand, M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Berlin, takes pains almost every day to explain the essential difference between French and Spanish action in Morocco—that of Spain being a flagrant violation of the Algeiras act, while that of France being only its execution. I listened to these explanations with a serious face,' said the Assistant Secretary, who added that 'it really was amusing to listen to lawyers' speeches in these court proceedings about a forgery.'"

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GARDNER AGAIN RIDDLES NAVY MARKSMANSHIP

His Count of Spring Target Practice Only 90 Hits in 826 Shots.

ANSWERS DANIELS'S
LETTER OF PROTEST

Work of 17 Vessels Quoted to Disprove 95 Per Cent of Accuracy Claim.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, Aug. 15.—Just 90 hits out of 826 shots was the record of the seventeen vessels of the American battleship fleet at spring target practice, according to Representative Augustus P. Gardner.

In a broadside issued to-day Mr. Gardner attacked Secretary Daniels's defence of the navy's marksmanship, particularly the record of the battleship Michigan. He answered the Secretary's criticism that the Gardner attack on the Michigan shooting was not entirely accurate. He even admitted a slight inaccuracy, and then added the statement that the actual conditions had been worse than he had pictured them.

Mr. Gardner gave the actual figures of the spring practice of the battleship fleet, which showed that the New Hampshire scored only 1 hit out of 28 shots; the Minnesota, the Vermont and the Louisiana only 2 hits out of 28; the Florida only 2 out of 70, and the Arkansas only 5 out of 70.

Attacks 95 Per Cent Report.
Mr. Gardner gave out this information in a copy of a letter which he had sent to Secretary Daniels. He called attention to Henry Wysham Lanier's analysis of the navy's marksmanship and said: "I simply cannot understand why Secretary Daniels acquiesced in silence with Lanier's statement that the battle practice of 1914 scored about 95 per cent of hits."

The letter from Secretary Daniels to Mr. Gardner in regard to the latter's criticism of the Michigan's target practice was dated August 3 and read: "Referring to your letter of June 25, 1915, I am in receipt of a letter from the commanding officer of the U. S. S. Michigan protesting against the comparison of the Michigan's shooting this last year with that of 1911 as being misleading and calculated to give an incorrect impression of the present efficiency of his ship."

"The figures given in your letter are not entirely correct, although the actual percentage of hits in 1911 in the case of this particular ship was higher than in 1914-15. Furthermore, a mere comparison of percentage of hits is misleading."

Difficulties Increased.
"The individual ship battle practice of the Michigan this year was fired with reduced charges, so that her equivalent range was greater than that of 1911 by almost 4,000 yards."

"The division practice of the Michigan was fired at about 600 yards greater range than in 1911, but during part of this year's practice, in order to simulate the possible exigencies of battle, each turret was required to control its own fire, obtaining and keeping the range in so doing, a condition which added much to the difficulties of the practice."

"In 1911 the Michigan stood 1 in gunnery among the battleships, and while the results of this year's practice have not yet been completely computed, her standing will again probably be high."

"I assure you that every effort is being made by those with whom the responsibility rests to maintain and improve the gunnery of our navy, and the circulation, through the medium of the press, of information incomplete and based on gossip, and which tends to discredit the navy, hinders rather than helps their efforts."

To this Mr. Gardner replied on Friday in a letter, in which he said: "If in any way I seemed unkind to the U. S. S. Michigan I hasten to express my regret. Certainly I intended no injustice to the vessel, or to its officers, or to its men."

Refers to 'Mortifying Gossip.'
"In my criticism I compared the practice of the U. S. S. Michigan in 1911 with the practice of that same vessel in 1915. I told how she had fallen from her record of 19 hits out of 27 shots in 1911 down to 5 hits out of 27 shots in 1915, according to current 'mortifying gossip.' You tell me that the figures are not 'entirely correct.' That is a fact. The actual record is even more alarming than I supposed. I find that this spring, instead of only firing twenty-seven shots, the Michigan fired no less than fifty-six shots, and out of that large number of shots made only 90 actual hits, as allowed by the chief umpire who witnessed the practice."

"You tell me that the conditions of the practice in 1915 differed from those of the practice in 1911. To a certain extent that is the case, and if I had known that the ammunition charge was lighter this year I should have said so. Well informed naval officers tell me that with the heavier charge it is probable that the Michigan might have hit the target eight or nine times out of fifty-six, instead of five times. I understand that the difference in favor of the heavier charge can readily be calculated."

"I note your statement that in 'division practice' the range this year was 600 yards greater than in 1911 and that during 'part' of the division practice each turret was confined to individual count. Those facts have no particular bearing in this instance for the scores which I am criticizing were made not in 'division practice,' but in individual practice, commonly called 'day individual practice.' I understand that this turret control restriction did not exist as far as individual practice was concerned."

Many Worse than the Michigan.
"When I wrote on June 25 I had no figures available except those of the Michigan. Since then I have acquired the figures of the individual spring practice of the rest of the fleet, and I realize that many a battleship has a worse record than the Michigan."

"You complain, with some justice, of the circulation of 'incomplete' information, and you tell me that the commanding officer of the Michigan has entered a protest. Inasmuch as my former letter may have given the public the idea that the Michigan was worse than the other battleships it is only fair to her officers and men to publish the record of the whole battleship fleet."

It is as follows:
INDIVIDUAL SPRING PRACTICE OF THE BATTLESHIP FLEET, 1915.

Ship	Charges	Shots	Hits
New York	14-inch	70	8
Texas	14-inch	70	8
Delaware	12-inch	84	8
Arkansas	12-inch	84	11
Oklahoma	12-inch	70	6
Tennessee	12-inch	70	6
Florida	12-inch	70	2
Alabama	12-inch	70	2
Mississippi	12-inch	70	2
Illinois	12-inch	70	2
Indiana	12-inch	70	2
Ohio	12-inch	70	2
Michigan	12-inch	826	90
Idaho	12-inch	70	2
Washington	12-inch	70	2
Oregon	12-inch	70	2
California	12-inch	70	2
Arizona	12-inch	70	2
Colorado	12-inch	70	2
Utah	12-inch	70	2
Montana	12-inch	70	2
Wyoming	12-inch	70	2
Nebraska	12-inch	70	2
Kansas	12-inch	70	2
Oklahoma	12-inch	70	2
Arkansas	12-inch	70	2
Mississippi	12-inch	70	2
Alabama	12-inch	70	2
Georgia	12-inch	70	2
Florida	12-inch	70	2
South Carolina	12-inch	70	2
North Carolina	12-inch	70	2
Virginia	12-inch	70	2
West Virginia	12-inch	70	2
Delaware	12-inch	70	2
Connecticut	12-inch	70	2
Rhode Island	12-inch	70	2
Massachusetts	12-inch	70	2
New Hampshire	12-inch	70	2
Maine	12-inch	70	2
New Jersey	12-inch	70	2
Pennsylvania	12-inch	70	2
Maryland	12-inch	70	2
District of Columbia	12-inch	70	2

"Eight hundred and twenty-six shots and ninety hits doesn't sound much like the 95 per cent of accuracy which we have heard so much about, does it? Theory of 'Constructive' Hits."

"The above compilation was prepared for me to show the hits actually allowed by the chief umpire, and reported at the spring individual practice of the battleship fleet in 1915. The table is subject to a variation on account of a revision of the scores which is subsequently made, not by the chief umpire who actually witnessed the firing, but by the Navy Department."

"As you know, the Navy Department has adopted a plan of examining photographs of the splashes made by the shots, and then adding 'constructive' hits which were not apparent to the chief umpire, or deducting hits which the department feels have been erroneously allowed. The theory of a 'constructive' hit, as I understand it, is that certain shots fail to hit the target solely because a portion thereof has been wrecked by some previous shot."

"It is well to point out the fact that the best of the ordnance officers and enlisted men by no means concede the soundness of the policy of the Navy Department of reckoning 'constructive' hits by empirical methods, even though it is considered by many that the aid of photography is valuable in receiving the decisions of the umpire."

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Idaho	12-inch	70	2
Washington	12-inch	70	2
Oregon	12-inch	70	2
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Colorado	12-inch	70	2
Utah	12-inch	70	2
Montana	12-inch	70	2
Wyoming	12-inch	70	2
Nebraska	12-inch	70	2
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Georgia	12-inch	70	2
Florida	12-inch	70	2
South Carolina	12-inch	70	2
North Carolina	12-inch	70	2
Virginia	12-inch	70	2
West Virginia	12-inch	70	2
Delaware	12-inch	70	2
Connecticut	12-inch	70	2
Rhode Island	12-inch	70	2
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